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COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
Resumed thirty-second session
31 August-18 September 1992
Agenda item 9

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
ON ITS RESUMED THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Sally E. MOSS (Bahamas)

II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan
for the period 1992-1997

Programme 30. Regional cooperation for development in Africa

1. At its 40th and 42nd meetings, on 15 and 16 September 1992, the Committee considered revisions to programme 30 (Regional cooperation for development in Africa) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 30)/Rev.1).

Discussion

2. A number of delegations expressed the view that the programme narrative was too general and should have been more concrete as regards the actions to be undertaken.

3. A number of delegations felt that the proposed revisions overemphasized actions for promoting and supporting the development of appropriate institutions, while the need to strengthen existing institutions was not adequately reflected.

4. A number of delegations considered that the conclusions and recommendations of the Economic Commission for Africa concerning the impact of the structural adjustment programmes in Africa should have been referred to in the revisions.

5. A number of delegations felt that the social development issues in Africa, in particular crime and drug trafficking, did not receive sufficient attention. In their opinion, the relevant paragraphs of the existing narrative should be maintained.

6. One delegation suggested that the titles of subprogrammes 3, 4 and 8 should be modified to read, respectively, "Campaign against poverty and promotion of sustainable development", "Institutional strengthening" and "Development of infrastructures" in order to highlight the objectives to be achieved under these subprogrammes.

7. A number of delegations proposed the deletion of subparagraph 30.23 (f) of subprogramme 1 as it was too general.

8. Some delegations considered that, in view of the continuing dependence of African countries on export earnings, the importance of external trade for Africa should have received greater emphasis in subprogramme 2.

9. A number of delegations were of the view that the role of the creditor countries in finding a solution to the external debt problem of African countries should have been highlighted in subprogramme 1.

Conclusions and recommendations

10. The Committee recommended approval of the revisions to programme 30 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 30.22: Replace the second sentence with the following: "Although many financial and monetary institutions have been created and are operational, Member States have not availed themselves extensively of the technical support and advisory services offered in this respect";

(b) Paragraph 30.26: The second sentence of subparagraph (a) should be a separate subparagraph, (b); the remaining subparagraphs to be relettered accordingly;

(c) Paragraph 30.27: In the first sentence insert the words "and policies" after the word "objectives".

11. The Committee welcomed the new streamlined subprogramme structure.

12. The Committee recommended that subprogramme 9 (Women in development) be strengthened and designated high priority.

13. The Committee noted the vital role played by the multinational programming and operational centres of the Economic Commission for Africa in each African subregion, particularly in the areas of regional economic cooperation and integration.